Library

BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ACKD BY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1963

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

.....oooooOOOoooo.....

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1963/64

His Worship the Mayor	Councillor A.G.I.Cardno
Deputy Mayor	" H.Roberts
Aldermen	Mrs.J.M.Addenbrooke
	B.Inett
	E.Shirley Jones
	J.A.Pittaway
Councillors	J.Baylis
	R.D.N.Fabricius
	S.B.Harris
	Mrs.T.D.Hammond
	Mrs.E.L.Hatchett
	A.W.S.Holloway
	R.Jolliffe
	H.McHenry
	R.Pearson
	Mrs.A.Sandles

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Meat and Food Inspector).

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1963/64

His Worship the Mayor	Councillor A.G.I.Cardes
Deputy Mayor	" R.Roberts
Aldermen	Mrs.L.M.Addenbrooke
	B.Inett
	E.Shirley Jones
	J.A.Pittaway
Councillors	J.Bayliss
	R.D.H.Fabricius
	S.B.Harris
	Mrs.T.D.Hawood
	Mrs.E.L.Hatchett
	A.M.S.Holloway
	R.Jolliffe
	H.McHarry
	R.Pearson
	Mrs.A.Sandles

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B., Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. (Certificated Meat and Food Inspector).

Covercroft,
Droitwich.

August, 1964.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of
the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

From the address shown above it will be appreciated that this report was prepared in the new temporary offices designed to house the Surveying and Public Health Departments. The appointment of a Deputy Surveyor has relieved Mr.Robinson of some of his heavy duties so enabling him to plan the public health work more effectively and with the arrival of an additional Public Health Inspector on 1st January, 1964 this task was made easier. It is none too soon to look ahead at the needs of a growing town and realise that investigation of complaints as and when they arise must be superseded by routine day to day inspection in order to uncover any matters which are prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 will mean considerable extra work and I would like to see this used as an opportunity to raise the standard of all food premises in the town to a maximum level. There still remain a number of substandard dwellings in the town, together with an even larger number which would benefit from improvement and major repairs. Now is the time to plan ahead and get the work done before Overspill population infiltrates into the town and complicates the issue.

Preparations for the acceptance of Birmingham Overspill have gone ahead satisfactorily during the year. Approval was obtained in principle to the siting of the New Sewage Works at Ladywood, but the engineering details will be the subject of another Public Inquiry in the near future. The Council's Consulting Engineers have, however, done much valuable preliminary work on the design of the disposal works and the layout of the trunk sewers. Discussions with the Severn River Board have also been of benefit in planning for the future.

The usual biennial outbreak of Measles occurred early in the year. Apart from that there was hardly any infectious disease. Trials have been made with specially prepared Measles Vaccine in the United States, but we may have to wait a few years before a completely successful product is on the market. Nevertheless in a few years' time it may be that outbreaks of this disease will also be a thing of the past.

My thanks are due to the Surveyor and his Staff for the help they have given me during the year.

I remain, Mr.Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1963	7,990
Number of inhabited houses 1st April, 1963 (according to Rate books)	2,324
Rateable value at 1st April, 1963	£304,225
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1963	£1,255

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	61	61	122
Illegitimate	4	2	6

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	4.7%
Standardised Birth Rate	16.0
Birth Rate - England and Wales	18.2

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	7.7
Still Birth Rate - England and Wales	17.3
Total Live and Still Births	129

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Analysis of Deaths	56	51	107

Standardised Death Rate	10.6
Death Rate - England and Wales	12.2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	39.0
Legitimate	40.9
Illegitimate	-
Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales ...	20.9

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...	31.2
Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales	14.2
Maternal Deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1963	7,990
Number of inhabited houses 1st April, 1963 (according to Rate books)	2,324
Rateable value at 1st April, 1963	£304,225
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1963	£1,255

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	61	61	122
Illegitimate	4	2	6

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 4.7%

Standardised Birth Rate 16.0

Birth Rate - England and Wales 18.2

Still Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 7.7

Still Birth Rate - England and Wales 17.3

Total Live and Still Births 129

Deaths	Male	Female	Total
Analysis of Deaths	56	51	107

Standardised Death Rate 10.6

Death Rate - England and Wales 12.2

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... 39.0

Legitimate 40.9

Illegitimate ... ... -

Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales ... 20.9

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... 31.2

Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales 14.2

Maternal Deaths ... ... Nil

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births Nil

Primary Causes of Death		Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1
2.	" other	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-
11.	" " Lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12.	" " Breast	-	1	1
13.	" " Uterus	-	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	10	15
15.	Leukaemis, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	1	2	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	9	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina	2	7	9
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
20.	Other heart diseases	3	6	9
21.	Other circulatory diseases	-	3	3
22.	Influenza	-	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	7	3	10
24.	Bronchitis	7	1	8
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	-	1
28.	Nephritis and Pephroses	1	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	11	4	15
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents	1	-	1
34.	All other accidents	1	2	3
35.	Suicide	1	1	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
		56	51	107

End of Section "A"

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b2916901x

SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is situated in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infecticus diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services from their premises at No.1, Ombersley Street, on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help for the aged in cases of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 10 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

General	110	(174)
Maternity	19	(40)
Tuberculosis	-	(1)

(figures in brackets are for the previous year)

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domicillary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two part-time Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year, 2,336 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 2,497 the previous year.

The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed, but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioner. A physiotherapist, Midwives and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1963:-

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	119	(129)
Number of children who received a first reinforcing dose during the year	149	(93)
Number of children who received a second reinforcing dose during the year	35	(52)

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year	153	(129)

Reinforcing doses are not normally considered to be necessary.

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year	82	(295)
Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year	38	(713)

(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(iv) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a lump of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 6-9 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

(1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
(2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
(3) Special services for blind persons.
(4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
(5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.

(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provisions of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

(1) The provision of residential accommodation.
(2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation
(3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
(4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual activity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

(i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
(ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
(iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronkswood.
(iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St.John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.
(v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
(vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analysis of Water, Sewage, Food, Drugs, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

End of Section "B"

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gal. Water Tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory. The Engineer and Manager has supplied the following details of mains extensions completed in the Town during 1963:-

St.Andrews Estate	305 yds. 3 inch A.C.
	866 yds. 6 inch A.C.
Witton Avenue	226 yds. 3 inch A.C.
The Holloway	145 yds. 4 inch A.C.
Total	1,542 yds

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from four boreholes near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all four boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

	Date 9.12.63	No. of Colonies Developing on Agar in 2 days at 37° C	in 3 days at 22° C	Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coliform Bacilli
		per 1 ml	per 1 ml	100 ml.	100 ml
i.	Washingstocks "Bigwood"	1	10	Nil	-
ii.	Wildmoor No.2 Borehole Pump	4	12	Nil	-
iii.	Harland Pump Burcot Depot.	1	1	Nil	-
iv.	Brockhill No.1 Borehole Pump	Nil	6	Nil	-

Wildmoor No.1 — Chemical Analysis — 9th December, 1963

Colour	Colourless
Odour	None
Deposit	None pH 6.9

	Parts per million
Suspended Matter (Dried at 100° C)	-
Total dissolved Solids (Dried at 180° C)	130
Chlorine Present as Chloride	13
Hardness Non-Carbonate	32
" Carbonate	68
" Total	100
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Trace
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27° C)	0.10
Toxic Metals	None detected
Fluorine	Trace
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)	-
Phosphates (as PO_4)	-
Free Carbon Dioxide	15

The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

The County Analyst carried out an investigation of the fluoride content of these boreholes in February, 1963 and the results showed an average of 0.10 p.p.m. The principle of fluoridation of the town's water supply was approved by the Borough Council in April, 1963 and by the Worcestershire County Council later in the year.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent action but is fairly hard. Evidence of a fairly high copper content (2.0 p.p.m) was discovered in a large block of flats. This was not due to the borehole water but due to the installation of new copper piping, being heaviest at first draw-off in the morning. There is no danger to health, and the content should fall considerably when the service has been in use some time.

(d) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2,310
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	7

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The temporary sewerage scheme for the Borough was completed early in 1963. This provided for a Pumping Station at Wheelers Bridge on the Ombersley Road, to pump sewage up to the Disposal Works from a new sewer laid from the Stalls Farm Estate. This was essentially related to the development of the St.Andrew's Estate which it was envisaged would cause surcharging of the trunk sewers in the centre of the town unless a certain amount of sewage could be diverted. Additional facilities were also provided at the Hampton Road Disposal Works in the form of an additional sedimentation tank and a sludge lagoon. It is hoped that these measures will help to maintain an effluent the standard of which is acceptable to the Severn River Board until such time as the new Sewage Disposal Works at Ladywood is available.

On 13th February, 1963 a Public Inquiry was held into the siting of the new disposal works at Ladywood to cater for an ultimate population of 30,000 people. Town planning approval was subsequently obtained for this project. The Council's Consulting Engineers were in a position to provide preliminary details of the new trunk sewers and the proposed new disposal works by 11th November 1963 and this has now been forwarded to the Ministry for approval under the Public Health Acts.

3. Droitwich Sea Bathing Lido

At all times the bacteriological condition of the bath was satisfactory but there were some difficulties with the filtration plant (See Borough Surveyor's Report). One complaint received concerned the condition of the Foot Baths which are in a difficult position at the Entrance (& Exit) to the Changing Cubicles. Although steps have been taken to maintain them in a satisfactory condition, this is not enough. Modern showers and foot sprays are required which involve structural alterations to the cubicle block and this work should be carried out as soon as possible.

Special consideration was given to the safety of bathers, following which various alterations were made to the First Aid Room and a 'Minuteman' Oxygen apparatus was purchased for use in emergencies.

4. Refuse Disposal

Controlled tipping is still carried out on land adjacent to the King George V Playing Fields. An additional layer of refuse is now being added to the tip and consideration should again be given to the provision of an alternative site in the near future. This is important due to the fact that Overspill development will take place primarily on this side of the town.

Flies have always been a problem in the warm weather and it is now apparent that they are resistent to D.D.T and Gammexane so that the use of insecticides is somewhat restricted.

5. Mortuary

Droitwich Mortuary is now closed, provision having been made for the reception of Droitwich cases at Martley mortuary, which is some fifteen miles distant. This is by no means a satisfactory arrangement and it has been agreed in principle that provision should be included for a new mortuary in the Town Plan at present being prepared by the County Planning Officer.

End of Section "C"

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following table shows the housing work carried out during 1963:-

Number of new houses erected:-

(1)	By the Local Authority	Nil
(2)	By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3)	By other bodies or persons	79

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	102
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	122
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	41
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	81
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	16

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers. 7

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(1) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:-

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	None
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:-	
	By Owners	None
	By Local Authority in default of owners	None

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1

(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	By Owners	None
	By Local Authority in default of Owners	None
(3)	Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957:-	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None
(4)	Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:-	
(a)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	None
(b)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	None

Housing Act, 1957. Part IV. Overcrowding

(1) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	9
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	12
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	76
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(3) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	3
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(c)	Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil

End of Section "D"

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspection of Food Premises in the Town was carried out as regularly as possible by the Surveyor & Public Health Inspector during the year. However, his duties were exceptionally heavy and the amount of routine work carried out was limited. It is a great relief therefore to report the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector w.e.f. 1st January, 1964 and he is concentrating particularly on all aspects of Food Hygiene. The types of premises inspected are shown in Mr.Robinson's report, together with the number of Ice Cream samples taken. No Meat Inspection was necessary during the year as the one butcher with a Slaughterhouse has now transferred to Bromsgrove Abbatoir and his Licence was withdrawn.

There is one manufacturer of Ice Cream in the town, and thirty five retailers selling the pre-packed product (in the majority of cases). The sale of the "Soft Mix" product has increased recently and there are three different Manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. These carry a Swedish freezer, the ice cream being made up from a cold liquid mix and dispensed almost immediately. More regular sampling of this product is necessary and it is hoped this will be possible with additional staff available.

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, dealers' licences being issued by the Worcestershire County Council who are the Food & Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector who arranges for bacteriological sampling of milk to be carried out from various premises every month. The Food & Drugs Inspector also arranges for chemical samples to be taken for investigation of fatty and non-fatty solids in milk. Investigations are also being carried out by the County Analyst for the presence of anti-biotics in milk. In all, 144 samples were taken during the year.

The County is not divided into areas for the sampling of Food and Drugs, but from an examination of the County Analyst's reports, it is evident that he examines a wide selection of food and drugs and I am satisfied that a certain amount of this work is carried out within the Borough of Droitwich.

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F"
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1963

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table

Age Group	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Food Poisoning
Under 1 year	4	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	35	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	46	-	-	-	1	-
5 years +	108	-	-	-	3	-
10 years +	2	-	-	-	-	-
15 years +	-	-	-	-	-	1
20 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals	195	-	1	1	4	1

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1962 are shown below:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January, 1963	17	14	1	8
Additions to register during the year - new cases	1	-	-	-
- Others	2	2	-	-
	20	16	1	8
Deductions from register during the year	12	12	1	8
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1963	8	4	-	-

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on three occasions during 1963. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but too few applications for assistance are still being received.

End of Section "F"

SECTION "G"
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health were made as follows during 1963:-

1.	(a)	Number of Factories on register in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authority	Nil
		Number of inspections made	Nil
	(b)	Number of Factories not included above, in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	52
		Number of inspections made	4
	(c)	Number of other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	Nil
		Number of inspections made	Nil
2.		Cases in which defects were found	1
3.		Number of Out-workers in list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (3)	Nil

RODENT CONTROL
TYPE OF PROPERTY

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other including Business & Industrial	TOTAL	Agricultural
1. Total No. of Properties in Borough	9	2311	200	2520	9
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	4	25	12	41	1
(b) Survey under the Act	9	481	13	503	-
(c) Otherwise	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of properties inspected (in Section.II) found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	6	37	8	51	-
(b) Mice Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	1	2	3	-
4. No. of infested properties (in Sect.IV) treated	8	62	22	92	-
5. No. of notices served under Section 4 of Act (a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

End of Section "G"

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

August, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my nineteenth Annual Report of the responsibilities undertaken by my Department during the year 1963.

The short term sewage scheme was completed and this led to an immediate commencement of the various building schemes for which outline approval had been given during the past years, and by the end of the year, there were more private houses under construction than ever before whilst records have been kept.

The time taken by planning in all its many forms became steadily greater, resulting consequently in a reduction of time available for many other important duties. Your Council were undertaking the review of the staffing of my Department and it is hoped that 1964 will see the appointment of additional staff to bring into proper balance the Department's many responsibilities.

May I take this opportunity of thanking your Council, the Town Clerk and other Officers for the ready assistance afforded to me and to my own staff who have given me their loyal support over so many years.

Inspections made during the course of 1963 are as follows:-

	1963
Visits to direct labour and contract works	53
Inspection of contract of Council House Improvement ...	57
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws ...	275
Inspections re maintenance of Highways	112
Inspections re factories including bakehouses	6
Inspections of food shops and catering premises	17
Visits to Council Houses re repairs	338
Visits re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip	47
Visits re supervision of Lido, Parks and Public Open Spaces	117
Visits re Canal Scheme	11
Samples taken for analysis, including milk, sewage water, ice cream, swimming bath water and trade effluents	31
Number of houses inspected for housing defects including re-visits	102
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work, and advise re planning and Building Byelaws	81
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded	31

Private Development within the Borough

This year saw a resurgence of private house building permitted as a result of the "short term" sewerage scheme, and by the end of the year over 100 houses were in course of erection. This is more than double the number in any preceding year since the war, and in fact much in advance of any previous development. Not only are individual houses being erected, but several estates, and this work was stretching your Building Inspection staff to the full.

The Council took proceedings against one developer who converted premises in the Town Centre without Byelaw permission. As a result of the action the Magistrates fined the developer £2 on each of two counts.

Priory House

The Council were very concerned that this old and interesting building should not fall into decay, and after protracted discussions with the County Council negotiations were opened with the owners for the purchase of the property.

Council Houses

Improvement of 32 Council Houses
Holloway Road/Vines Lane/Pridzor Road

The Contract for the improvement of 32 old Council houses in the Holloway, Vines Lane and Pridzor Road progressed gradually through the year, and by the end of the year was nearing completion. This improvement scheme has been well worth while, and has pleased the tenants concerned even though the rents have been increased.

Manning Road Houses

A scheme is being prepared for the improvement of 39 houses in Manning Road. The alterations will not be as extensive as those to the 32 houses, and in the main consist of the installation of hot water supply with washbasin in the bathroom, and some minor internal planning improvements.

House painting

House painting was carried out this year as the result of tenders invited from specific contractors. 146 houses were painted, which the Contractors carried out much more satisfactorily than has been the case at times in the past.

Garages

22 new lock-up garages were erected on the Stalls Farm Estate and plans were being prepared for further garages on other estates in the town.

Footpaths

House footpaths at St.Richards Gardens were substantially repaired.

Hanbury Road Estate

Development of this Estate which has been in course of preparation for a long time was commenced at the end of the year. These much needed houses and bungalows should go a long way to meeting the immediate needs of the Borough.

Maintenance

Your 738 dwellings were satisfactorily maintained during the year. It will be noted that as the houses become older, the maintenance costs will inevitably increase.

10 families were rehoused during 1963 and 14 transfers were permitted to families requiring either larger or smaller dwellings.

Lock Cottage, Ladywood

This old Canal cottage became vacant and your Council decided to improve and modernise it. The work was well in hand by the end of the year.

Slum Clearance

Slum clearance work has slowed down during the past year, as little can be achieved until the families living in houses the subject of Demolition Orders have been rehoused. It is hoped that with the completion of houses upon the Hanbury Road Estate, work of this kind can recommence.

Improvement Grants

The following houses were improved by means of Improvement Grants:-

Standard	No.11, St.Peters Road (Mr.T.E.Griffiths)	£79.16.2d.
Discretionary	No.38, High St., (John Barnett Ltd)	£117.10.0d.
	No. 9, North Street (Miss A.M.Smith)	£400. 0.0d.

Food Premises

Food premises operating in the Borough are made up as follows:-

Hotels	5	Grocers	25
Cafe's	6	Butchers	11
Canteens	6	Fishmongers	2

6 tins of food and 7 lbs. of loose walnuts were found unfit for human consumption and voluntarily destroyed by the owners concerned. No animals were slaughtered for food within the Borough, local butchers purchasing their meat supplies either from the wholesale market or by slaughtering themselves in the abattoir at Bromsgrove.

Generally speaking, food premises are maintained in reasonably good condition, and it is hoped that with the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector more time can be given to this important work.

New Offices

The Borough Council set up a Sub-Committee to consider the provision of additional office space, and after inspecting a number of properties in the town, they eventually decided to erect a building of a temporary nature upon Covercroft, for one Department. In due course it was decided that the Borough Surveyor's Department was the one most easily moved, and at the end of the year, a Contract had been let for the erection of the offices and it was hoped that the removal would take place early in 1964.

Canal

It is hoped to go out to tender in 1964.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

This Public Health duty was continued throughout the year without major difficulty. In this case also the supply of labour is most difficult, and with the increased number of houses, additional men are being required. The work is comparatively heavy, and has to be carried out in all weathers and is generally not appreciated by the public. Your refuse collectors are a good team and carry out their work with a minimum of complaints.

A new refuse lorry was purchased during the year, and the old one is being used for removal of refuse from hotels.

The disposal of refuse is one of the major problems facing your Council at the present time. The tip is practically used up and will not last much longer than the end of 1964.

Investigations have been proceeding as to an alternative site for tipping. One was found, but negotiations with the owners concerned were proving difficult.

Your Council carried out a pilot scheme in the use of paper sacks as house refuse containers at individual households. The scheme covered the 250 houses at the Stalls Farm Estate. After six months' trial your Council decided not to continue in view of the expense entailed in the supply of paper sacks.

Flies

A number of complaints were received concerning flies which it was alleged came from the refuse tip. Steps were taken to maintain the tip in good condition and the surface of all refuse was treated with an insecticide regularly throughout the whole of the summer. There are several potential sources of flies in the vicinity of the houses from whence complaints were received. It is thought that the source of the flies was in fact from all these focal points. Efforts were being made to deal with this nuisance at each of the points mentioned.

Salvage

The following salvage was collected and sold during the year:-

	T.	C.	Q.	lbs		
Mixed Waste Paper	11.	0.	1.		value	£85. 6. 11d.
Scrap Iron	8.	16.	2.		"	61. 9. 0d.
						£146.15. 11d.

Sampling

The following samples were taken during the year:-

Trade Effluent	4	Lido Water	2
Ice Cream	19	Sewage	2
Tap Water	3	Canal	1

Brine Baths Chimney

Your Council took action with the Droitwich Medical Trust to reduce the smoke and dust nuisance emanating from this chimney. As a result, one of the boilers was taken out and replaced with a modern boiler of advanced design, and I am glad to say that the nuisance from the chimney has since ceased. No smoke is emitted except for rare and short periods, which does not cause a nuisance under the Act.

Highways

The major highway work carried out during the year 1963 was the completion of the Union Lane scheme. This provided a much needed improvement with a roadway having a carriageway of 24 ft. and two six foot footpaths, affording easy access from the Station through to Hampton Road. It was noted that forthwith firms tend to park vehicles on the carriageway thus immediately retarding the free flow of traffic.

Tenders were obtained but the scheme not commenced, for the construction of a road from Victoria Square to St.Andrew's Estate. The completion of this scheme should also provide a very useful link through to the Old Coach Road.

Forecourts to the shops in Colman Road and Ombersley Street were paved.

The early months of 1963 provided the most severe weather experienced for many years, continuous frost and frequent snow falls, completely stopping outside work and requiring all available labour upon street clearing and gritting. A good deal of damage to highways from frost resulted, particularly in Vines Lane where results of the frost and heavy traffic required expenditure amounting to £2,075.0.0d. before the end of the year. The traffic using Vines Lane is of course very different from that for which the roadway was originally constructed, and consequently settlement of the foundations has become very evident.

Efforts were being made to get Pilgrim Road made up and the adjoining service road from the Holloway.

An extension of George Baylis Road was approved and carried out at the Berry Hill Industrial Estate, thus making available further factory sites.

With the cessation of motorway construction traffic, work upon the completion of the improvements to the Holloway commenced and the Holloway was kerbed on both sides up to Tagwell Road

Manual Labour

The availability of manual labour in the Department becomes more and more difficult.

Early in the year, I had the privilege upon your instructions, of attending a Conference to consider Work Study and its implications. I feel certain that authorities such as your own, situated in a rapidly growing town, having easily available work in reasonably congenial circumstances and with good wages, will have to find some form of attraction to labour to enter your authority's works department. This attraction can be provided either by improved wages or better conditions, or a combination of the two. Improved wages can only, I think, be ensured by increased efficiency and output which can be achieved by the application of work studies and a properly introduced bonus system.

A small authority may find this difficult, but with a combination of authorities, it may be possible, and I feel sure that as the years go by, this will have to be introduced. The decision as to 'when' is one which your Council will wish to keep before you.

Sewage Disposal Works

A short term improvement scheme was completed by the construction of a further sedimentation tank and a large sludge drying lagoon. By the skilful use of the sedimentation tank as a balancing tank the Manager was able to improve the effluent and the condition of the filters. This enabled further house building to proceed.

The cutting off of Stalls Farm Estate and the County Secondary School from the sewer along Ombersley Street eased the Winnetts Lane/Friar Street sewer and very little flooding has occurred during the year in the yards at Queen Street. Stalls Farm drainage was conveyed to Wheelers Bridge as part of the improvement scheme from which point it is pumped to the Sewage Works.

With the rapid development of the Borough, it will not be long before further improvements of a short term nature may be required at the works.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government held an Inquiry into the purchase of land for the new Sewage Works at Ladywood and in due course approved the purchase of this site. These new works are urgently needed in order to cope with the ever increasing flow at the Sewage Works.

Sewers

These have operated smoothly and during the year a system of flushing and cleansing has been introduced by contract with the use of special equipment for jetting out sewers and removing all debris. This is very useful in the older parts of the town where some sewers are very flat, and have a considerable deposit which has accumulated over the years. Efforts were concentrated on Vines Lane to get these sewers cleansed and in good order.

PARK

The Park was maintained in its usual good condition. The Putting Green was transferred to the site of the two grass tennis courts which were taken out of use, thus allowing the previous area of the putting green to be used for the public to sit upon.

The Council arranged for the Bretforton Silver Band to play on four occasions in the Park, and the Droitwich Salvation Army Band also played from time to time. On each occasion the concerts were appreciated by the public.

The Bowling Green was maintained in fair condition and with the agreement of the Club, the season closed early in order to allow considerable additional maintenance work to be carried out.

The Council decided not to permit the parking of vehicles upon the lawns in the Park, but only upon the proper car parking areas. Whilst reducing income slightly, there is little doubt that the general public in the Park much preferred this arrangement.

The collection of fees for car parking has always been somewhat of a problem and this year the Council introduced automatic barriers which by electronic means lift to allow motorists to enter, and a fee has to be paid to lift the outgoing barrier arm. After 'growing pains' the public became used to this system, and generally speaking it was most satisfactory.

The presence of an Attendant in the Park enabled better order to be maintained with less vandalism and the comfort of the persons using the Park was better ensured.

SEA BATHING LIDO

Mr.R.Lynham was appointed as Pool Superintendent and the season was not only not a good one from the weather point of view, but fraught with difficulties in operating the plant and running the Pool. The Filters, shortly after opening the pool both became defective allowing sand to leave them and enter the water in the pool. During the whole of the season the Superintendent was engaged at intervals and over long hours upon temporary repairs to each of the filters to enable the pool to remain open. This he achieved, but at times the water was not in good condition and a lot of expensive labour had to be used in order to keep the plant in operation.

During the year, steps were in hand to complete the new pre-cleansing unit, but with the trouble experienced in water filtration I had to recommend the Council to defer this very needed improvement and to install a new filter. This was approved and it was hoped that before the opening of the 1964 season the No.1 filter would be replaced with a new one and No.2 filter thoroughly reconditioned.

One reads from the press that towns in the vicinity of Droitwich are building their own Swimming Pools, and I have no doubt that if your pool is to maintain its popularity, then in fact to meet modern requirements, an expensive scheme of improvement and modernisation of the whole undertaking will have to be proceeded with in the very near future.

Sewers

These have operated smoothly and during the year a system of flushing and cleansing has been introduced by contract with the use of special equipment for jetting out sewers and removing all debris. This is very useful in the older parts of the town where some sewers are very flat, and have a considerable deposit which has accumulated over the years. Efforts were concentrated on Vines Lane to get these sewers cleansed and in good order.

PARK

The Park was maintained in its usual good condition. The Putting Green was transferred to the site of the two grass tennis courts which were taken out of use, thus allowing the previous area of the putting green to be used for the public to sit upon.

The Council arranged for the Pretforton Silver Band to play on four occasions in the Park, and the Droitwich Salvation Army Band also played from time to time. On each occasion the concerts were appreciated by the public.

The Bowling Green was maintained in fair condition and with the agreement of the Club, the season closed early in order to allow considerable additional maintenance work to be carried out.

The Council decided not to permit the parking of vehicles upon the lawns in the Park, but only upon the proper car parking areas. Whilst reducing income slightly, there is little doubt that the general public in the Park much preferred this arrangement.

The collection of fees for car parking has always been somewhat of a problem and this year the Council introduced automatic barriers which by electronic means lift to allow motorists to enter, and a fee has to be paid to lift the outgoing barrier arm. After 'growing pains' the public became used to this system, and generally speaking it was most satisfactory.

The presence of an Attendant in the Park enabled better order to be maintained with less vandalism and the comfort of the persons using the Park was better ensured.

SEA BATHING LIDO

Mr.R.Lynham was appointed as Pool Superintendent and the season was not only not a good one from the weather point of view, but fraught with difficulties in operating the plant and running the Pool. The Filters, shortly after opening the pool both became defective allowing sand to leave them and enter the water in the pool. During the whole of the season the Superintendent was engaged at intervals and over long hours upon temporary repairs to each of the filters to enable the pool to remain open. This he achieved, but at times the water was not in good condition and a lot of expensive labour had to be used in order to keep the plant in operation.

During the year, steps were in hand to complete the new pre-cleansing unit, but with the trouble experienced in water filtration I had to recommend the Council to defer this very needed improvement and to install a new filter. This was approved and it was hoped that before the opening of the 1964 season the No.1 filter would be replaced with a new one and No.2 filter thoroughly reconditioned.

One reads from the press that towns in the vicinity of Droitwich are building their own Swimming Pools, and I have no doubt that if your pool is to maintain its popularity, then in fact to meet modern requirements, an expensive scheme of improvement and modernisation of the whole undertaking will have to be proceeded with in the very near future.

An unusual experience was that the opening of the Lido was only just achieved by the date set owing to the very severe winter. The amount of ice upon the Pool was so thick that it all had to be broken and lifted out manually. At the shallow end the water was almost solid to the floor of the Pool. To carry out the normal spring painting the ice had to be removed and stacked on the side of the Pool to melt whilst painting was in progress.

Playing Fields

Poplars Meadow was brought into use for the first time and proved very pleasing both as an attractive playing field and as a useful pitch.

Droitwich Cricket Club continued their work in the maintenance of this field.

The Council agreed to the reconstruction of the entrance to the King George Playing Fields and this was in hand at the end of the year.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

LSS/MGM
GLR/MGM